

Approved on March 21, 2012

## **MINUTES**

### **MID-COUNTY CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**February 21, 2012**

**Members Present:** Richard Newman, Gregory Intoccia, Kieran McHargue, Steve Morrison, Ariel Winter, Brenita Young, Barbara Hueter, Eileen Cahill, Gam Wijetunge, Theresa Bell

**Members Absent:** Robin Brannan, Karla Fortunato, Craig Long, Robert Shoenberg

**Staff Present:** Ana Lopez van Balen

**Guests:** Tiffany Ward, Council Staff for Marc Elrich; Adam Fogel, Council Staff or Nancy Navarro; Khalid Afzal, Park & Planning; Karla Silvestre, Latino Liaison for the County; Aaron Kraut, Gazette; Esther French, Patch; Hilary Weissman, Patch; Cory Cook, citizen; and Chris Farell, KMCA.

**Call to Order:** Gam Wijetunge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m

#### **Approval of Agenda & Minutes:**

There was a motion to approve the agenda, Gregory Intoccia seconded, and the agenda was approved. Another motion was made for the minutes of the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Community Concerns:** None.

#### **Old Business:**

The committee listened to a report from Khalid Afzal with the Montgomery County Planning Board regarding its disapproval of application for the Glenmont Fire Station (Mandatory Referral No. 2012007). A motion was made to invite representatives from the county to meet with MCCAB to discuss the status of plans for Fire Station 18. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### **Council Notes/State Report:**

Council Member Nancy Floreen shared her thoughts and perspectives on the upcoming county budget, the Wheaton CIP, school funding issues, and legislation on community benefits agreements.

Adam Fogel with Council Member Navarro's staff updated the board on her efforts regarding Wheaton redevelopment and small business assistance programs. He also discussed community benefits agreements legislation.

Tiffany Ward with Council Member Elrich's staff updated the board on Wheaton redevelopment, state and county budget issues and plans for the Wheaton library and recreation center.

### **Director/Staff Report and Update from County Executive:**

Ana Lopez van Balen reported on the Glenmont Sector Plan, Wheaton CIP, small business assistance programs, Mid-County Youth Advisory Council, outreach to the Latino community to increase civic involvement. She also shared dates for various community meetings that have been scheduled.

Karen Silvestre, the Latino Liaison to the County Executive, summarized and answered questions on the Report of the Latino Youth Collaborative Steering Committee. Ms. Silvestre reported that an oversight work group will be formed to address the more complex recommendations in the report.

### **Committee Chairs Report:**

**Budget and Capital Improvement:** Kieran McHargue reported his concerns that the Wheaton redevelopment plan is in jeopardy. He presented the committee with a draft letter in support of the Wheaton CIP. The committee discussed, amended and approved the letter.

**Land Use, Zoning & Transportation:** Rick Newman reported that the committee heard a presentation from the county on the proposed bus rapid transit system. The committee thinks some version of bus rapid transit is needed but they were not convinced by the plan as presented to them by the committee. The Zoning committee would like the county to make a full presentation to the board so that the entire group may consider it and make recommendations. A recommendation was made to ask the county to make a presentation to MCCAB, it was amended to also extend an invitation to the State Department of Transportation. The amended motion was approved.

**Quality of Life:** Ariel Winter reported that it met in January to hear an update from Karla Silvestre on Latino youth issues. The committee also discussed the issues of how the county handles personal property that has been discarded due to eviction and the practice of feeding wildlife. Steve Morrisson will contact the sheriff's office to gather information on eviction procedures.

### **Liaison Reports:**

**Dept. of Permitting Services Advisory Committee:** Steve Morrisson reported that they did not meet.

**Olney Town Center Advisory Committee:** Eileen Cahill reported that the new Safeway will open next week and that the property now includes a small park.

There were no reports from the Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee, the Wheaton Redevelopment Advisory Committee or the Mid-County Recreation Advisory Board.

**New Business:** Gam Wijetunge attended a meeting with the Greater Olney Civic Association where members expressed concern about the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Norbeck Road (northbound Georgia turning onto eastbound Norbeck).

The board discussed Chair Wijetunge's draft statement for the County Executive's annual meeting with boards. A motion was made to approve the statement, amendments were made and the motion was approved.

Ana Lopez van Balen asked for members to join the Selection Committee. Interested members should send her email.

A motion was made to adjourn. It was approved.